

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 6, 2019

The Honorable Seema Verma, MPH  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 445-G  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We write to express strong bipartisan support for the Medicare Advantage program, which 39.2 percent of eligible Medicare beneficiaries, more than 22 million people, choose to enroll in. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to preserving and strengthening the Medicare Advantage program for current and future Medicare beneficiaries. As the Administration considers updates to the program for plan year 2020, we urge you to ensure that the Medicare Advantage program will continue to offer affordable, high-quality, patient-centered coverage options.

Millions of seniors depend on Medicare Advantage plans to provide comprehensive, affordable health care as they age. The success of the Medicare Advantage program is demonstrated by survey findings showing that more than 90 percent of beneficiaries report high satisfaction with their coverage.<sup>1</sup> In 2019, average premiums decreased by an estimated 6 percent while enrollment is projected to increase by almost 12 percent.<sup>2</sup> Further, the average number of plan choices has increased.

Medicare Advantage offers care coordination, disease management programs, out-of-pocket spending limits, access to community-based programs, additional supplemental benefits such as vision and dental coverage, and often prescription drug coverage for no additional premium. Moreover, due to recent changes included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, an estimated 1.5 million beneficiaries will have access to expanded supplemental benefits such as adult day care services and in-home and caregiver support services. Other new flexibilities will foster greater competition and reduce costs for beneficiaries and taxpayers.

For plan year 2020, we urge the Administration to continue its efforts to promote flexibility and innovation, support value-based arrangements with health care providers, and ensure that any substantive changes to the Medicare Advantage program provide plan sponsors with sufficient time for thorough evaluation and implementation. We also encourage the Administration to build on the enhanced supplemental benefits that were offered this plan year by providing additional

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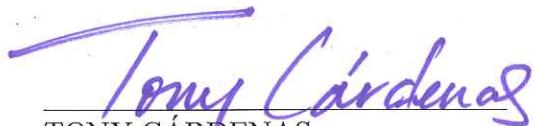
<sup>1</sup> 2016, March 23. National Poll Results. *Morning Consult*. <http://medicarechoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/National-poll-results-.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> 2018, September 28. Medicare Advantage Premiums Continue to Decline While Plan Choices and Benefits Increase. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/medicare-advantage-premiums-continue-decline-while-plan-choices-and-benefits-increase-2019>

flexibility to help drive the next generation of innovative approaches in Medicare to improve health outcomes, while also maintaining robust beneficiary protections.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to further strengthen the Medicare Advantage program and ensure millions of seniors have access to comprehensive, affordable health coverage choices.

Sincerely,

  
TONY CÁRDENAS  
Member of Congress

  
BRETT GUTHRIE  
Member of Congress

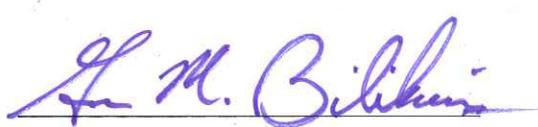
  
EARL BLUMENAUEER  
Member of Congress

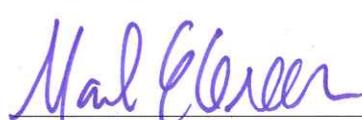
  
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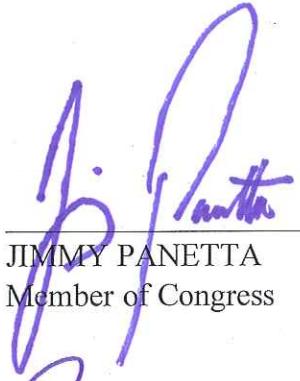
  
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BRIAN FITZPATRICK  
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ANDY BARR  
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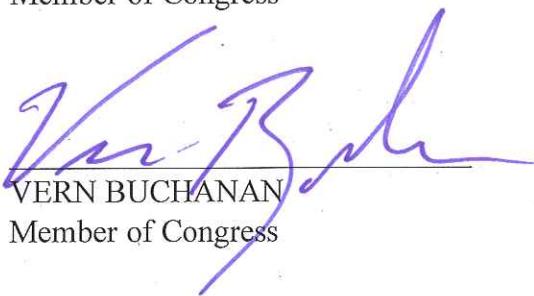
  
TED DEUTCH  
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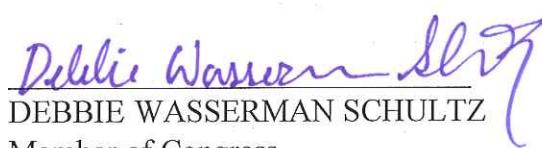
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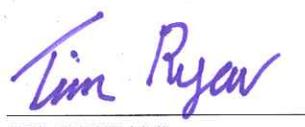


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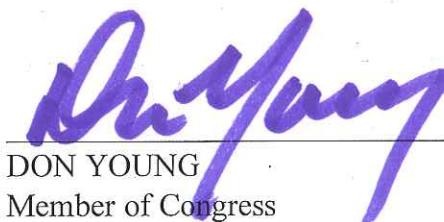


DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

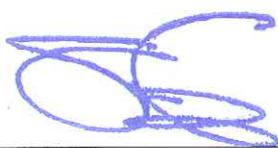
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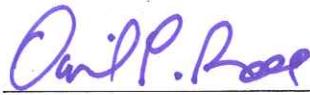
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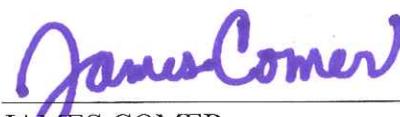
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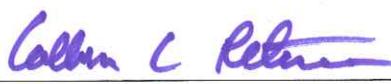
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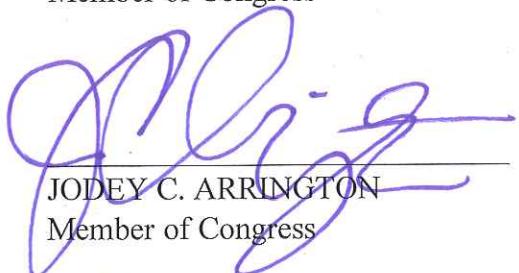
Bill Flores  
BILL FLORES  
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AL LAWSON, JR.  
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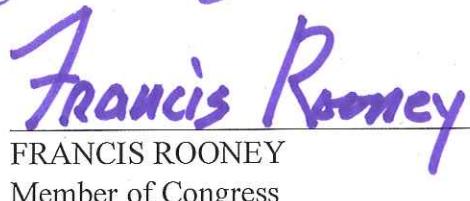
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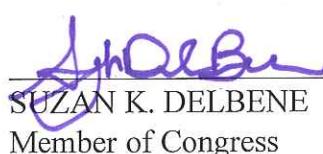
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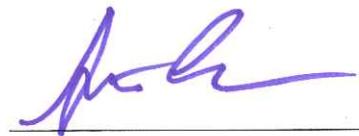
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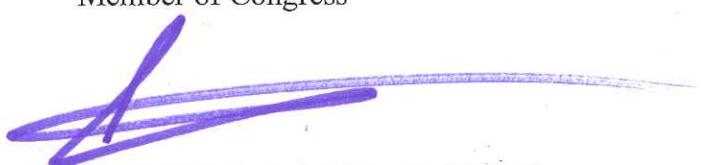
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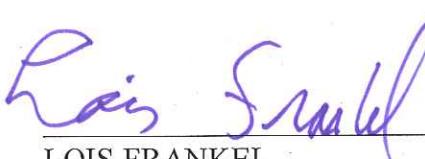
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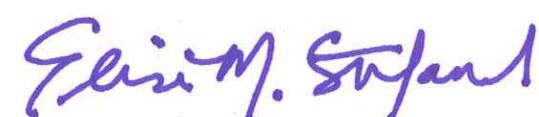
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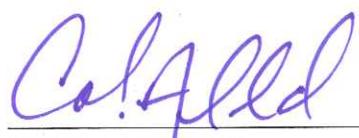
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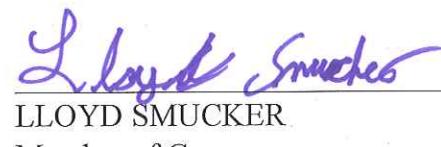


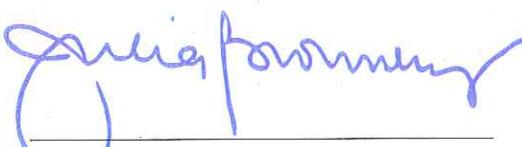
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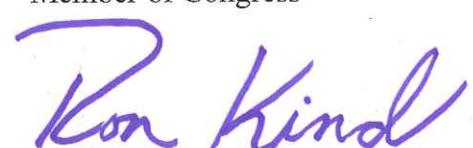


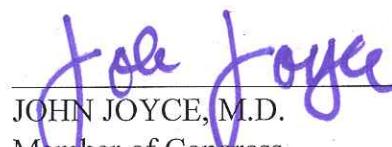
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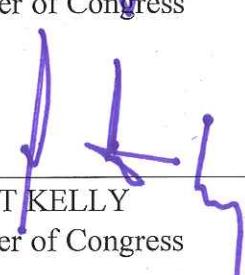
  
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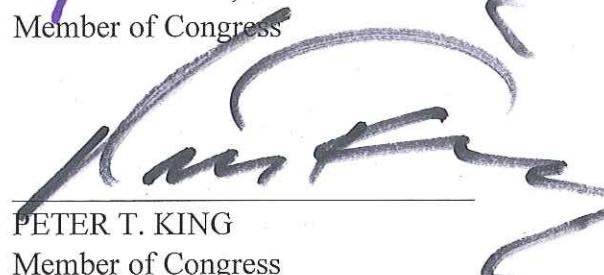
  
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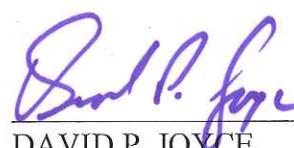
  
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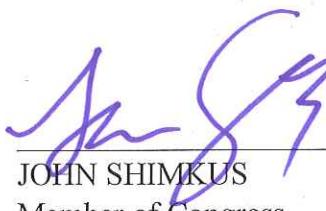
  
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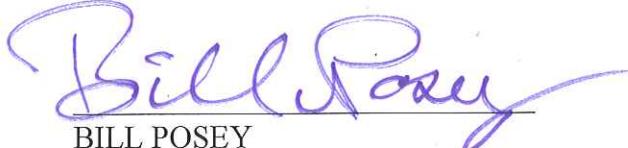
  
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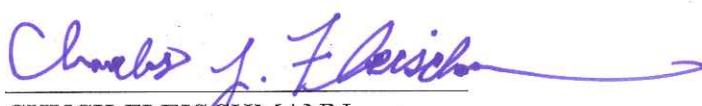
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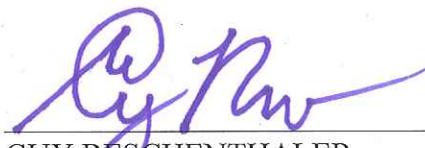
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TREY HOLLINGSWORTH  
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PAUL TONKO  
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KENNY MARCHANT  
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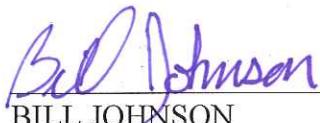
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TED BUDD  
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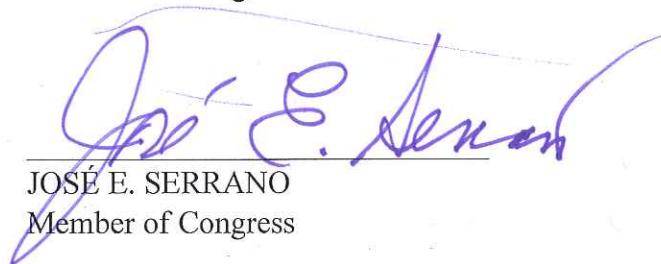
BILL JOHNSON  
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AMI BEREA, M.D.  
Member of Congress



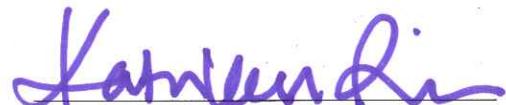
AUSTIN SCOTT  
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JOSÉ E. SERRANO  
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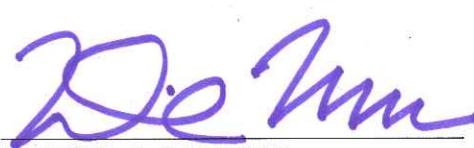
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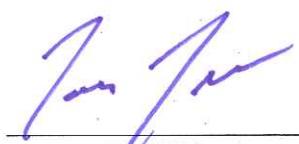
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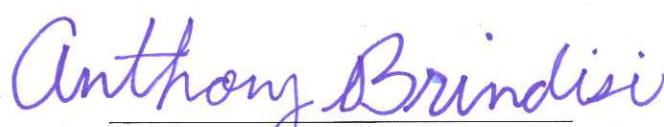
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WM. LACY CLAY  
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CHRIS STEWART  
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JIM COSTA  
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BETTY MCCOLLUM  
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ROB BISHOP  
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Jaime Herrera Beutler  
JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER  
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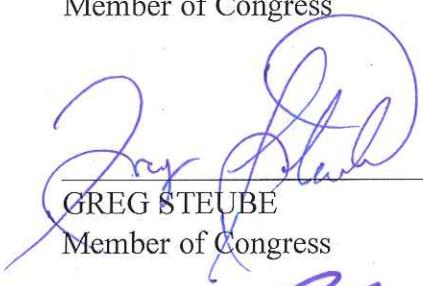
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JOHN YARMUTH  
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KATIE HILL  
Member of Congress



GREG STEUBE  
Member of Congress



RALPH ABRAHAM, M.D.  
Member of Congress



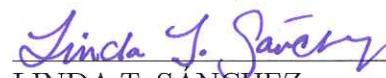
DENVER RIGGLEMAN  
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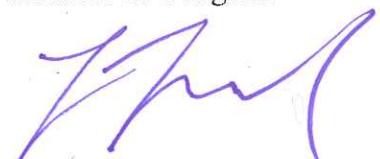
PETE OLSON  
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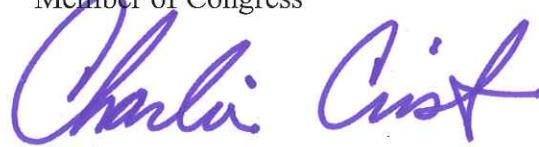
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CHERI BUSTOS  
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BEN MCADAMS  
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber

PETE STAUBER  
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GARRET GRAVES  
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Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.

GILBERT R. CISNEROS JR.  
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Adrian Smith

ADRIAN SMITH  
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Lauren Underwood

LAUREN UNDERWOOD  
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*Chrissy Houlahan*

CHRISSEY HOULAHAN  
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MARKWAYNE MULLIN  
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MADELEINE DEAN  
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SALUD O CARBAJAL  
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RUBEN GALLEGOS  
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HARLEY ROUDA  
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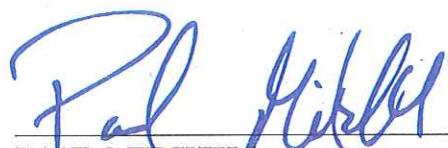
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*Adam Smith*

ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress

*Debbie Lesko*

DEBBIE LESKO  
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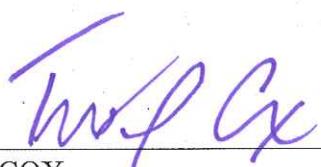
VICENTE GONZALEZ

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BILL HUIZENGA

Member of Congress



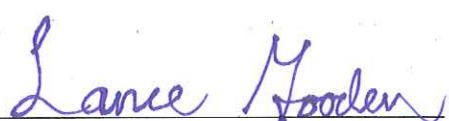
TJ COX

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ROSS SPANO

Member of Congress



LANCE GOODEN

Member of Congress



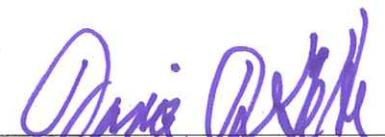
MICHAEL GUEST

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SUZANNE BONAMICI

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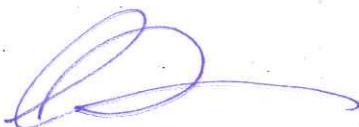
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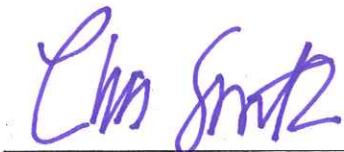
RICK W. ALLEN  
Member of Congress



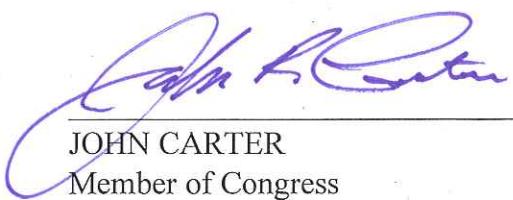
GREG GIANFORTE  
Member of Congress



CHRIS PAPPAS  
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress



JOHN CARTER  
Member of Congress



MICHAEL R. TURNER  
Member of Congress



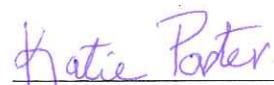
JIM BANKS  
Member of Congress



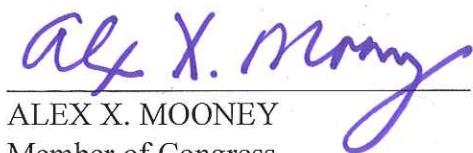
STEVE WOMACK  
Member of Congress



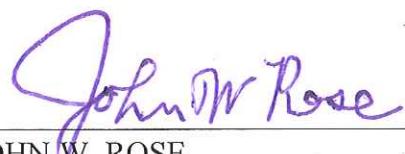
DOUG LAMALFA  
Member of Congress



KATIE PORTER  
Member of Congress



ALEX X. MOONEY  
Member of Congress



JOHN W. ROSE  
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw

DAN CRENSHAW  
Member of Congress

Carol D. Miller

CAROL D. MILLER  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs

ANDY BIGGS  
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall

ROB WOODALL  
Member of Congress

John Curtis

JOHN CURTIS  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher

LIZZIE FLETCHER  
Member of Congress

Jody Hice

JODY HICE  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis

DANNY K. DAVIS  
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar

PETE AGUILAR  
Member of Congress

aC

ANDRÉ CARSON  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu

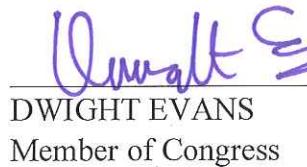
TED W. LIEU  
Member of Congress

Donna Shalala

DONNA SHALALA  
Member of Congress

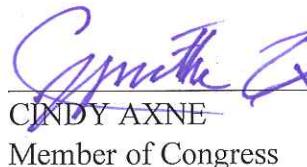


STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Member of Congress



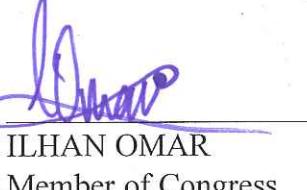
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DWIGHT EVANS  
Member of Congress



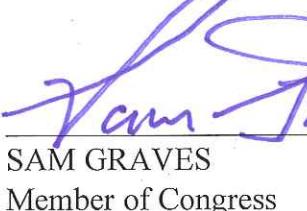
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CINDY AXNE  
Member of Congress



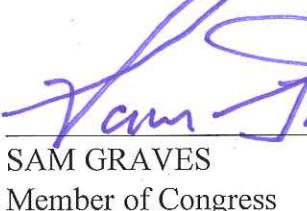
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ABBY FINKENAUER  
Member of Congress



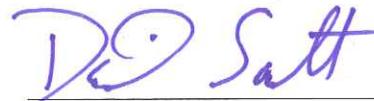
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ILHAN OMAR  
Member of Congress

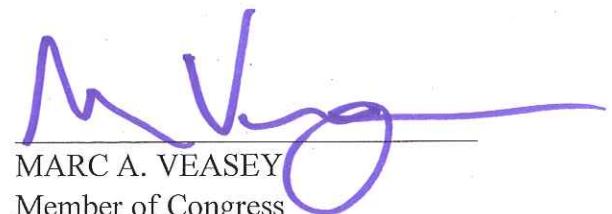


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SAM GRAVES  
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT  
Member of Congress



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MARC A. VEASEY  
Member of Congress



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DAVE LOEBSACK  
Member of Congress



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RAUL RUIZ, M.D.  
Member of Congress



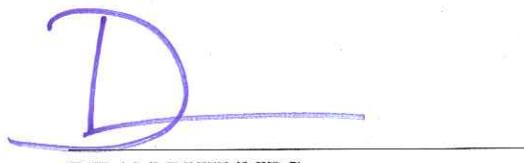
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JIMMY GOMEZ  
Member of Congress



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BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



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DEAN PHILLIPS  
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran

TOM O'HALLERAN  
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick

ANN KIRKPATRICK  
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi

THOMAS R. SUOZZI  
Member of Congress

Clay Higgins

CLAY HIGGINS  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore

GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

VICKY HARTZLER  
Member of Congress

J. Hagedorn

JIM HAGEDORN  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN  
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt

ROBERT B. ADERHOLT  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee

DANIEL T. KILDEE  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle

BRENDAN F. BOYLE  
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman

BRUCE WESTERMAN  
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier

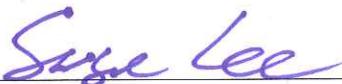
KIM SCHRIER, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi

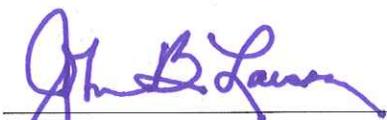
RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI  
Member of Congress



MIKE GALLAGHER  
Member of Congress



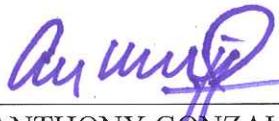
SUSIE LEE  
Member of Congress



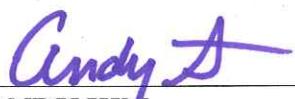
JOHN LARSON  
Member of Congress



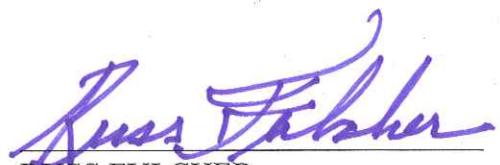
BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress



ANTHONY GONZALEZ  
Member of Congress



ANDY KIM  
Member of Congress



RUSS FULCHER  
Member of Congress



MARTHA ROBY  
Member of Congress



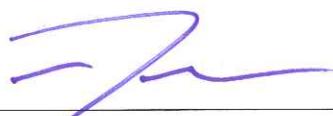
JOSH GOTTHEIMER  
Member of Congress



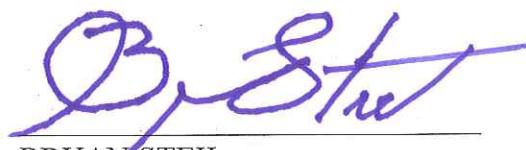
ED CASE  
Member of Congress



MARCIA L. FUDGE  
Member of Congress



TOM REED  
Member of Congress



BRYAN STEIL  
Member of Congress



MARY GAY SCANLON  
Member of Congress

*Joseph D. Morelle*

JOSEPH D. MORELLE  
Member of Congress

*Lynn*

TIM BURCHETT  
Member of Congress

*Ann Wagner*

ANN WAGNER  
Member of Congress

*Alcee L. Hastings*

ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress

*Gerald E. Connolly*

GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress

*Bennie G. Thompson*

BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

*Lucy McBath*

LUCY MCBATH  
Member of Congress

*Don Wright*

RON WRIGHT  
Member of Congress

*Conor Lamb*

CONOR LAMB  
Member of Congress

*Steve King*

STEVE KING  
Member of Congress

*Aumua Amata*

AUMUA AMATA RADEWAGEN  
Member of Congress

*Eleanor Holmes Norton*

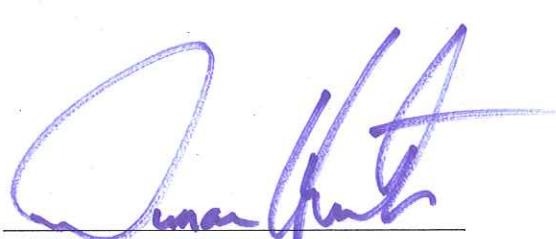
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress

*Nydia Velázquez*

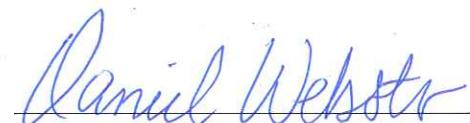
NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ  
Member of Congress

*Bradley S. Schneider*

BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER  
Member of Congress



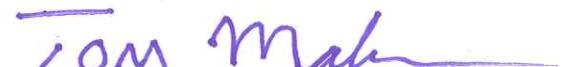
DUNCAN HUNTER  
Member of Congress



DANIEL WEBSTER  
Member of Congress



J. LUIS CORREA  
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI  
Member of Congress



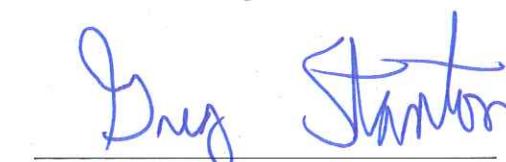
RICK CRAWFORD  
Member of Congress



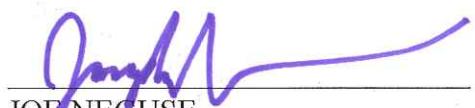
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER  
Member of Congress



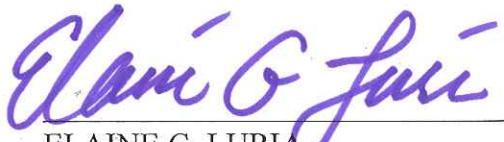
MIKIE SHERRILL  
Member of Congress



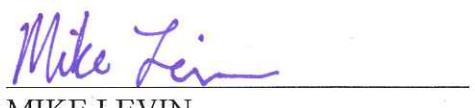
GREG STANTON  
Member of Congress



JOE NEGUSE  
Member of Congress



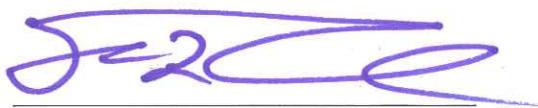
ELAINE G. LURIA  
Member of Congress



MIKE LEVIN  
Member of Congress



ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.  
Member of Congress



CEDRIC RICHMOND  
Member of Congress



MAC THORNBERRY  
Member of Congress



ANTHONY G. BROWN  
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



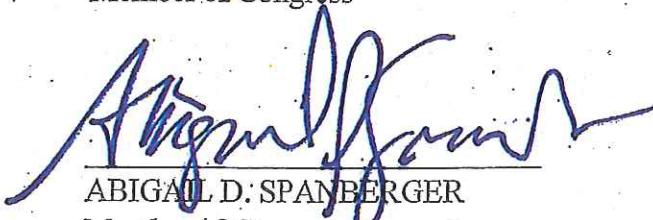
MARK POCAN  
Member of Congress



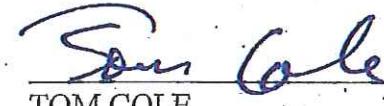
TOM GRAVES  
Member of Congress



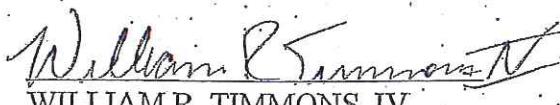
JENNIFER WEXTON  
Member of Congress



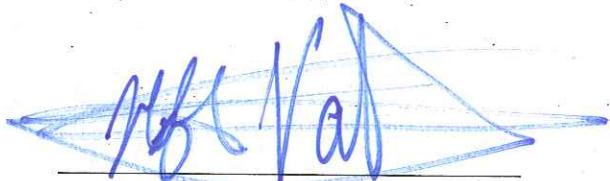
ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER  
Member of Congress



TOM COLE  
Member of Congress



WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV  
Member of Congress



JEFFERSON VAN DREW  
Member of Congress